(c) and (d) MSTC is no longer entrusted with the key role in the area of import of scrap. The recent notification of DGFT insisting on direct import of scrap by the end-user has further limited the role of MSTC in import of metal scrap. As mentioned above, MSTC, however, has introduced an e-Auction platform to bring about more effective disposal of scrap within the country.

Better compensation to land owners for acquiring land for SEZs

894. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that better compensation to the land owners whose land has been acquired for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), is not being paid across the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (b) Land is a State subject and each State has its own compensation and Relief & Rehabilitation measures depending upon the requirements and necessities of respective States and these are applicable for acquistion of land for SEZs also. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised National Rehabilitation Policy 2007 with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adquate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial project including SEZs.

Hike in subsidy for South Indian Tea Growers

895. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Indian Tea Growers have demanded hike in the present subsidy and higher amount for tea replantation and rejuvenation, on par with Darjeeling, under the proposed replantation exercise of the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government, after considering all requests and other inputs on the subject, has announced setting up of SPTF (Special Purpose Tea Fund) for funding the replantation and rejuvenation wherein 25% will be the subsidy from the Central Government, 25% owners' contribution and 50% loan from the SPTF.

MoU on intellectual property rights

898. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has signed any MoU with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on intellectual property,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) How Government are responding to the concerns that the treaty , includes sensitive issues relating to I.PR policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights has been signed between the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trade Marks, Department of industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and industry and the United States Patent and Trademark 0ffice, U.S. Department of Commerce on 6th December, 2006. The MoU is limited to capacity building, human resource development and public awareness. It does not include any sensitive issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights such as policy, legislation or enforcement. A copy of the MoU is available on the official website of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (www.dipp.nic.in).

Displacement of people due to SEZs

897. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: